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NSC Review Completed

9 April 1964

OSD review completed

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Special Group Meeting, 9 April 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Bundy, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Vance, and Mr. McCone.

Also present was Lieutenant General Alva R. Fitch.

State Dept. review completed

Reconnaissance Effort against Cambodia.

1. In a discussion of the reconnaissance effort against Cambodia the following points were made: Mr. McCone noted that, in regard to Cambodian radar, there was evidence that, whereas

2. Mr. Johnson registered the State Department view that any reconciliation between General Khanh and Prince Sihanouk was of considerable importance and any event which would impede such a trend was undesirable.

3. General Fitch then briefed the members on the existing intelligence collection problem. He indicated the types of information needed, i.e., sources of supply, improvement of routes, scale of infiltration, build-up indicators, etc. He emphasized that agent reports were of questionable validity, a watcher system was still in an embryonic stage, and P/W interrogations could not normally produce timely data. Only through overhead reconnaissance then, could many of these requirements be satisfied. As an example, he suggested that the Viet Cong were covertly moving in materiel and personnel by water to Cambodia, then overland up the Mekong Delta through Cambodia and along Route 13. Proof could be obtained only from the air.

4. Messrs. Bundy, Vance and Johnson raised the question as to the usefulness of the "take." It was clear that evidence is still insufficient. Mr. McCone indicated that his latest reports raised considerable doubt as to the success of the missions thus far. Mr. Vance was of the opinion that until all the reports are in and analyzed, a fair estimate of the value of the missions cannot be determined. General Fitch also believed that further coverage was necessary for proper evaluation.

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5. Mr. Johnson urged that the 11 priority objectives (as yet uncovered) within the 30-mile limit be completed before the Cambodian radar capability improves. The members agreed to this suggestion.

6. Mr. McCone then suggested, as a solution to coverage of the seven COMOR priority objectives outside the present 30-mile limit, that the U-2

undertake full coverage on a single mission at the time that the aircraft departs

The other members agreed to this proposal.

7. The Special Group will make further determinations on Cambodian reconnaissance when the results of completed missions have been analyzed.

Peter Jessup

Distribution

Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Vance  
Mr. McCone

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